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A True and Faithful ACCOUNT

OF THE SEVERAL

INFORMATIONS

EXHIBITED

To the Honourable Committee appointed by the

PARLIAMENT

To Inquire into the late Dreadful Burning Of the

City of London.

TOGETHER

With other INFORMATIONS touching the Insolency of POPISH PRIESTS and JESUITES; and the INCREASE of POPERY, brought to the Honourable Committee appointed by the Parliament for that purpose.

Printed in the Year 1667.

1206

LONDONS Conſumption by FIRE.

UPon the ſecond of *September* 1666. the Fire began in *London*, at one *Farryners* Houſe, a Baker, in *Pudding Lane*, between the hours of one and two in the morning, and continued burning until the ſixth of *September* following: conſuming, as by the Surveyors appears in print, three hundred ſeventy three Acres within the Walls of the City of *London*, and ſixty three Acres three Roods without the Walls. There remains ſeventy five Acres three Roods yet ſtanding within the Walls unburnt. Eighty nine Pariſh Churches, beſides Chappels, burnt. Eleven Pariſhes within the Walls yet ſtanding. Houſes burnt, thirteen thouſand two hundred.

Per { *Jonas Moore* / *Ralph Gatrix* } Surveyors

Upon the eighteenth of *September* 1666. the Parliament came together: And upon the 25th of the ſame month, the Houſe of Commons appointed a Committee to enquire into the Cauſes of the late Fire, before whom the following Informations were given in; and proved before the Committee; as by their Report will more clearly appear, bearing date the two and twentieth of *January* 66. And upon the eighth of *February* following, the Parliament was prorogued; Before they came to give their Judgement thereupon.

Die Martis 25 Septembris 1666. 18 Car. 2.

Reſolved, &c.

THat a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Cauſes of the late Fire, and that it be referred to

Sir *Charles Harbord.*	Mr. *Rob. Millward.*	Sir *Robert Atkins.*
Mr. *Sandys.*	Sir *William Lowther*	Sir *Thomas Gower.*
Col. *Birch.*	Sir *Richard Wiseley.*	Mr. *Trevor.*
Sir *Robert Brook.*	Sir *Rowland Berkley*	Sir *Thomas Clifford.*
Sir *Thomas Littleton.*	Sir *Thomas Allen.*	Sir *Hen. Cæſar.*
Mr. *Prin.*	Mr. *Whorwood.*	Sir *John Monſon.*
Mr. *Jones.*	Mr. *Coventry.*	Sir *Job Charlton.*
Sir *Solom. Swale.*	Serj. *Maynard.*	Lord *Ancram.*
Sir *Thom. Tomlins.*	Sir *Jo. Talbot.*	Mr. *Pepis.*
Mr. *Seymour.*	Mr. *Morley.*	Sir *Richard Everard.*
Mr. *Finch.*	Mr. *Garraway.*	Mr. *Crouch.*
Lord *Herbert.*	Sir *Fran. Goodrick.*	Mr. *Merrel.*
Sir *John Heath.*	Col. *Strangways.*	Sir *Will. Hickman.*
Mr. *Millward.*	Sir *Edward Maſſey*	Sir *Richard Brown.*
Sir *Richard Ford.*	Sir *Edm. Walpool.*	Mr. *Maynard.*

And they are to meet to morrow at two of the clock in the afternoon, in the Speakers Chamber; and to ſend for Perſons, Papers, and Records.

Will. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

October 9. 1666.

Ordered, That theſe Members following be added to the Committee appointed to inquire into the Cauſes of the late Fire, *Viz.* Sir *John Pelham*, Mr. *Hugh Buſcowen*, Mr. *Giles Hungerford*, Sir *William Lewis*, Sir *Gilbert Gerrard*, Sir *John Brampſtone*, Mr. *Millward*, Mr. *Buſcowen*; and all the Members that ſerve for the City of *London*.

Will. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

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October 16. 1666.

Ordered, That Mr. *Davies*, Sir *Tho. Higgons*, Mr. *St. John*, Sir *Richard Franklin*, Sir *Tho. Tomkins*, Mr. *Devereux*, Mr. *Millard*, Mr. *Lewis*, Mr. *Dowdeswell*, Sir *James Thyn*, Sir *Edm. Pierse*, Mr. *Coleman*, Sir *Tho. Allen*, Mr. *Giles Hungerford*, Mr. *Churchil*, be added to the Committee appointed to inquire into the Causes of the late Fire.

Will. Goldesbrough, Cler. Dom. Com.

THe Honourable Committee, according to the fore-mentioned Orders of the House, did meet in the Speakers Chamber, and having chosen Sir *Robert Brook* for their Chairman, proceeded to receive many considerable Informations from divers credible Persons, about the matter wherewith they were intrusted, and thereupon did at last agree that Sir *Robert Brook* should make the insuing Report to the Honourable House of Commons.

The Report of Sir Robert Brook, *Chairman to the Committee that was appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the Firing of the City of* London; *made the Two and Twentieth of* January, 1666.

IN a Letter from *Alanson*, of the 23 of *August*, 1666. New Stile, written from one *Dural* to a Gentleman lodging in the House of one of the Ministers of the French Church in *London*, called Mounsieur *Herault*, There were these expressions:

"Pray acquaint me with the Truth of certain News which is "common in this Countrey, That a Fire from Heaven is fallen up- "on a City called *Belke*, situated on the side of the River of *Thames*, "where a world of People have been killed and burnt, and Houses "also consumed: Which seemed a word of *Cabal*, cast out by some

that

that were knowing, and others that might be ignorant of the ſignification of it.

Mris. *Elizabeth Styles* informs, That in *April* laſt, in an eager diſcourſe ſhe had with a French Servant of Sir *Vere Fan*, he haſtily replied, *You Engliſh Maids will like the French men better, when there is not a Houſe left between* Temple-Bar *and* London-Bridge. To which ſhe anſwered, I hope your Eyes will never ſee that: He replyed, *This will come to paſs between* June *and* October.

William Tiſdale informs, That he being about the beginning of *July* at the Greyhound in St. *Martins*, with one *Fitz-Harris* an Iriſh Papiſt, heard him ſay, There would be a *ſad Deſolation* in *September*, in *November* a worſe, in *December all would be united into one.* Whereupon he asked him, Where this Deſolation would be? He anſwered, *In London.*

Mr. *Light* of *Ratcliff*, having ſome diſcouſe with Mr. *Longhorne* of the Middle-Temple, Barriſter, (reputed a zealous Papiſt) about *February* --65 laſt, after ſome diſcouſe in diſputation about Religion, he took him by the hand, and ſaid to him, *You expect great things in Sixty Six, and think that* Rome *will be deſtroyed, but what if it be* London?

Mr. *Kitley* of *Barkin* in *Eſſex*, informs, That one Mris. *Yazly*, a Papiſt, of *Ilford* in the ſaid County, came unto his Houſe, *Auguſt* the 13th, and being in diſcourſe with his Mother, ſaid, *They ſay the next* Thurſday *will be the hotteſt day that ever was in* England. She replied, I hope the hotteſt ſeaſon of the year is now paſt: To which ſhe anſwered, *I know not whether it be the hotteſt for Weather or for Action.* This Mris. *Yazly* coming to the ſame Houſe the Week after the Fire, Mr. *Kitley* ſaid to her with ſome trouble, I have often thought of your hot *Thurſday*: To which ſhe replied, *It was not indeed upon the* Thurſday, *but it happened upon the* Sunday *was ſennight after.* Mris. *Yazley* hearing this Evidence produced againſt her, endeavoured to avoid the words, ſaying, That upon the 13th of *Auguſt* ſhe did tell Mris. *Kitley*, That they ſay the next *Thurſday* will be the *darkeſt Thurſday* that ever was in *England*, but not otherwiſe; which ſhe affirms to have received from one *Finchman*, an old Woman of *Ilford*; who being examined by a Juſtice of Peace, to diſcover the truth thereof, denied that ſhe ever ſaid any ſuch words to Mris. *Yazly*, or that ſhe had diſcourſed with her about

bout any such matter. And as to the subsequent words, she saith Mrs. *Yazly* denies ever to have spoken them; But Mr. *Kitly* offered in her presence (if it should be demanded) to bring his Mother and Wife to testifie the same.

William Ducket Esquire, a Member of the House, Informs, That one *Henry Baker* of *Chippenham* in the County of *Wilts*, coming from Market with one *John Woodman* of *Kelloway* in the same County, the *Thursday* before the Fire began in *London*, they had some discourse about the buying of a Yoke of fat Bullocks, wherein they differed, because *Woodman* who was to sell them was desired to keep them a while in his hands; But the said *Woodman* denied so to doe, for that as he alleadged, he could not stay in the Country till that time which *Baker* would have them delivered to him in, and being asked whether he was going, he refused to tell, Asking what he had to do to make that question; But riding a little further, the said *Woodman* expreſt these words. *You are brave Blades at* Chippenham, *you made Bonfires lately for beating the* Dutch, *But since you delight in Bonfires, you shall have your Bellies full of them ere it be long*, Adding, *That if he lived one Week longer, he should see* London *as sad a* London *as ever it was since the World began. And in some short time after, he should see as bloody a time, as ever was, since* England *was* England. This discourse was not much taken notice of at that time it was spoken, But when the City of *London* was Burnt, the said *Henry Baker* gave this Information to the said Mr. *Ducket*, and thereupon he issued out his Warrant to apprehend *Woodman*, but he was gone out of the Country, and cannot be heard of since.

Robert Hubert of *Roan* in *Normandy*, who acknowledged that he was one of those that fired the house of *Mr. Farryner* a Baker in *Pudding-Lane*, from whence the Fire had its beginning, confessed, that he came out of *France* with one *Stephen Piedloe* about four months before the Fire, and went into *Sweden* with him, where he also staid with him as his Companion four months, and then they came together into *England* in a *Swedish* Ship called the *Skipper*, where he staid on board with the said *Peidloe* till that *Saturday* night, in which the Fire brake out. When *Peidloe* taking him out of the Ship, carried him into *Pudding-lane*, and he being earnest to know whether he would carry him, he would not satis-

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fie him till he had brought him to the place, and then he told him, that he had brought three Balls, and gave him one of them to throw into the house, And he would have been further satisfied in the design, as he said, before he would execute it: But *Peidloe* was so impatient that he would not hear him, and then he did the Fact, which was, That he put a Fire-ball at the end of a long Pole, and lighting it with a piece of match, he put it in at a Window, and staid till he saw the house in a Flame. He confessed that there were *Three and Twenty Complices*, whereof *Peidloe* was the *Chief*.

Mr. Graves a *French* Merchant living in St. *Mary Axe*, Informed this Committee, that he had known *Hubert* ever since he was four years old, and hath ever observed him to be a person of a mischievous inclination, and therefore fit for any villanous enterprize; And because of his knowledge he had of him, he went to visit him in Prison, where when he saw him, he could not but commiserate the condition whereinto he had brought himself. And for his better discovery of the *Fact*, he told him the said *Hubert*, that he did not believe he had done that of which he confessed himself Guilty; To which *Hubert* replyed, *Yes Sir, I am Guilty of it, and have been brought to it by the instigation of Monsieur* Peidloe; *But not out of any malice to the English Nation, but from a desire of Reward, which he promised me upon my Return into* France.

It is observable, that this miserable Creature who confessed himself to the Committee to be a Protestant, was a Papist, and dyed so. And as for the aforesaid *Peidloe*, the said Mr. *Graves* informed, that he had had a full knowledge of him, and knew him to be a very Deboist person, and apt to any wicked Design. Moreover for a clear conviction of the Guilt of the aforesaid *Hubert*, Mr. *Lowman* the Keeper of the *White-Lyon* Prison was appointed to set him upon a horse, and to goe with him, and to see if he could find out the place where he threw the Fire Ball. Upon which, *Hubert* with more readiness than those that were wel acquainted with the place, went to *Pudding-lane*, unto the very place where the house that was first Fired, stood, saying here stood the house. The Jaylor endeavoured to draw him from that belief, and put him upon seeking for some other place, But he positively persisted in what he had first said; and affirmed that to have been the said House. It being intimated to

the

Committee, That notwithstanding the Confession of the said *Hubert* it was confidently reported, that the Fire in the forementioned *Farryners* house began by accident. The Committee therefore sent for him the said *Farryner* before them, who being examined, said, That it was impossible any Fire should happen in his house by accident; For he had after Twelve of the Clock that night, gone through every Room thereof, and found no Fire, but in one Chimney, where the Room was paved with Bricks, which Fire he diligently raked up in Embers. He was then asked whether no Window or Door might let in wind to disturb those Coals? He affirmed there was no possibility for any wind to disturb them: and that it was absolutely set on fire of purpose.

Dawes Weymansel Esq; one of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, informed, That he saw a man apprehended in the time of the Fire near the Temple, with his Pockets stuft with *combustible matter*, made of Flax, Tow, and such-like materials.

Doctor *John Packer* informs, That he saw a Person in the time of the Fire, throw some *combustible matter* into a Shop in the *Old Bayley*, which he thinks was the Shop of an Apothecary; and that immediately thereupon he saw a great smoak, and smelt a *smell of Brimstone*. The Person that did this, immediately ran away; but upon the out-cry of the People he was taken by the Guards.

Mr. *Randal*, Mr. *Haslem*, and Mr. *Humpry Bowyer*, do all agree, That they saw a person flinging something into a House near St. *Antholin's* Church; and that thereupon the House was on fire, and the smoak thereof infested the adjacent Houses. And when this was done, there was *No Fire near the place.*

Mr. *Michael March*, an Officer in the Trained Bands in a Company of Sir *Richard Browns*, apprehended a *Walloon* in the time of the Fire at the Nags Head in *Leaden-hall-Street*, with an instrument like a dark Lanthorn, made (as is conceived) to lay a Train of Powder, and it was filled with Gun-Powder. There were two more of the same Nation in his company. They being asked to what use they employed the same Instrument, would give no Account thereof.

Newton Killingworth Esq; informed, That he apprehended a person during the Fire, about whom he found much *combustible matter*, and certain *black things of a long figure*, which he could not indure to

hold in his hands, by reaſon of their extream heat. This Perſon was ſo ſurprized at firſt, that he would not anſwer to any queſtion; But being on his way to *White-hall*, he acted the part of a Mad-man, and ſo continued while he was with him.

Sir *John Maynard*, a Member of this Houſe, affirms, That he had ſome of that combuſtible matter in his hands; and though it were in its natural ſubſtance, and unfired, yet the heat of it was ſcarcely to be endured by the touch.

Mr. *Freeman* of *Southwark* Brewer, (whoſe Houſe was lately fired) informs, That on the day his Houſe was fired, (about a quarter of an hour before that happened) a Paper with a Ball of Wildfire, containing near a pound weight wrapped in it, was found in the *Nave of a Wheel*, in a Wheelers yard, where lay a great quantity of Timber. How his Houſe was fired, he knoweth not; but this he affirmed to the Committee, That it could not be by accident, becauſe there had not been any Candle or Fire in the Houſe where the Hay lay, that whole day; and that the Hay being laid in very dry, and before *Midſommer*, could not poſſibly be ſet on fire within it ſelf. Moreover he ſaid, That the Hay loft was on fire on the top of the Houſe, and that the Fire ſpread from one end of the Roof to another in an inſtant.

Mr. *Richard Harwood* informs, That being near the Feathers Tavern by St. *Paul's*, upon the fourth of *September*, he ſaw ſomething through a grate in a Cellar like Wildfire, by the ſparkling and ſpitting of it he could judge it to be no other; Whereupon he gave notice of it to ſome Souldiers that were near the place, who cauſed it to be quenched.

I had order from the Committee to acquaint you, That we traced ſeveral Perſons apprehended upon ſtrong ſuſpition, (during the Fire) to the Guards, but could not make further diſcovery of them.

Thus far was the Report: What follows was given in to the Committee, but not by them Reported to the Houſe at that time.

In

IN obedience to an Order directed to me, from the Honourable Committee of the House of Commons, then sitting in the Speakers Chamber, of the second of October, 1666. *I did carry* Robert Hubert *to St.* Katharines Tower *by Water, to let me know the place where the Swediſh Ship lay, that brought him and other Frenchmen from* Stockholm, *and he brought me to the Dock over-againſt Mr.* Corſellis *his Brew-houſe, and did then veriſie to me and Mr.* Corſellis, *That the Ship lay there, until ſuch time as he, with Mr.* Peidloe *and others, did go & ſet fire to a Houſe. And this* Hubert *did then further ſay, That Mr.* Peidloe *did fix two Fire-Balls to a long Pole, and put them into a Window; and that he the ſaid* Robert Hubert *did fire one in the ſame manner, and put it in at the ſame Window. But with all the inquiry and diligence that I could uſe, I could neither find nor hear of any ſuch Veſſel. And from thence I carried the ſaid* Robert Hubert *to* Tower-Hill, *and did then deſire him to ſhew me the Houſe that they did fire, and he ſaid, That it was near the Bridge. So we went along* Thames-Street *towards the Bridge; but before we came to the Bridge, the ſaid* Robert Hubert *ſaid, That the Houſe was up there, (pointing with his hand up* Pudding-Lane: *So I bid him go to the place, and he went along upon the Bricks and Rubbiſh, and made a ſtand: Then I did aſk one* Robert Penny, *a Wine-Porter, which was the Bakers Houſe, and he told me, That was the Houſe where the aforeſaid* Robert Hubert *ſtood. So I went to* Robert Hubert, *and ſtood by him, and turned my back towards the Bakers Houſe, and demanded of him which houſe it was that he fired, (directing to other Houſes contrary to that Houſe) But he turning himſelf about, ſaid,* This was the Houſe, (*pointing to the Bakers Houſe that was firſt fired. Then by reaſon of his lameneſs I ſet him on a Horſe, and carried him to ſeveral other places, but no other place he would acknowledge; but rode back again to the Bakers Houſe, and ſaid again,* That that was the Houſe, (*pointing at the Bakers Houſe. And this I do humbly certifie to this Honourable Committee.*

By me *John Lowman*, Keeper of his Majeſties County-Goal for *Surrey*.

SIR,

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SIR,

HEaring that you are Chairman to the Committee for examining the Firing of London, *I thought good to acquaint you with this Information that I have received.*

William Champneys, a Hatband-maker, now living upon *Horsly-Down*, was upon *Tuesday* morning, *September* the Fourth, 1666. in *Shoe-Lane*, and there met with a Constable who had apprehended a Frenchman whom he took firing a House there with Fire-Balls, and charged the said *Champneys* to assist him, who carried the said Frenchman to *Salisbury* Court, hoping there to have found a Justice; but finding that place burning down, returned into *Fleet-Street*, who was presently called upon by the Commander of the Life-Guard, to know what the matter was: The Constable told him, He had apprehended a Frenchman firing a House in *Shoe-Lane*; he examined the Person and committed him to the Guard, and told the Constable he would secure him, and carried him along with him. The Constable asked him whether he should go along with him to give in his evidence: He replied, That he had done enough, and might go home. But what became of the Frenchman, he knoweth not.

Your humble Servant,
S. G.

In a Letter directed from *Ipswich*, for the Honourable Sir *Robert Brook*, it is intimated, That about the 30th of *August* 1666. One of the Constable, of *Cotton* in *Hartsmer* Hundred, being about the survey of that Town, about Hearth money, was told by one Mr. *William Thompson*, a Roman Catholique in that Town That though times were like to be sad, yet if he found any Cause to *Change his Religion*, *he would see he should not want*: And further said to him, What will you say if you should hear that *London is Burnt*?

The

The Affidavits touching a Frenchman that said, There were Three Hundred of them engaged in Firing the City.

The Informations of Richard Bound *of St.* Giles in the Field, *Ironmonger,* William Cotes, Samuel Page, Francis Cogny, Edmund Dakins, *and* Richard Pardoe, *taken the eighth day of* September 1666. *by Sir* Juſtinian Lewen *Knight, one of His Majeſties Juſtices of the Peace for the County of* Middleſex, *upon Oath, as followeth.*

Richard *Bound* ſaith, That upon *Tueſday* night laſt, about twelve or one of the clock, there was a Frenchman brought by the Watch, to this Informants Fathers houſe, being at the Sign of the *White Hart* in *Kingſtreet*, taken as a ſuſpicious perſon; The ſaid perſon being queſtioned by them, whether he was not one of thoſe that Fired the City, or had any hand therein, or any privity or knowledge of any that had deſigned the ſame; or words to that effect: The ſaid perſon anſwered a great while in a perverſe manner; quite different from the queſtion. But being further preſſed, to tell the truth, and being told, that if he were guilty, it would be the only way to ſave his life. He did at firſt obſtinately deny, that he knew any thing of any Plot; Whereupon a Youngman took the Priſoner aſide, to the end of the Room, and after ſome private diſcourſe between them, they both returned to this Informant and the reſt of the Company, and the ſaid young-man ſpake openly to us, in the hearing of the Priſoner, That the ſaid Frenchman and Priſoner had Confeſſed there were *three hundred Frenchmen that were in a Plot or Conſpiracy to Fire the City.* Upon which this Informant and others, ſpake to the ſaid Frenchman in theſe words, or to the ſame effect: *Well Monſieur, you have done very well to confeſs what you have done, and no doubt but you may have your Pardon, if you will confeſs all you know of this Plot*: And thereupon further asked him, *Are there no more than three hundred perſons in the ſaid Plot?* He anſwered, *There are no more than three hundred Perſons.* Then we inquired, who they were, and how he came to know they were *Three Hundred*: To which he would give no direct anſwer, but put

put it off with other extravagant discourse. And being asked why he came to St. *Gyles* Parish (where he was apprehended) He told a Story, that he came from *Islington Fields* where his Masters goods were; But the Goods were now removed, but he could not tell whither; and that his Master bid him to goe up and down the Feilds, but would not declare upon what occasion, or for what end he was so to doe; And being asked whether there were *Three hundred* persons ingaged in this Design, or plot, He replied, that there were *Three hundred* ingaged in it.

The several Informations of William Cotes *of* Cow-lane *of* London *Painter, of* Samuel Page *of* St. Gyles *in the Fields Weaver, of* Edmond Dakins *of* St. Gyles *aforesaid Bookseller, of* Francis Cockney *of* St. Andrews Holborn, *of* Richard Pardoe *Victualler, taken upon Oath, &c. tend to the Confirmation of the foregoing Relation.*

An Extract of a Letter from Heydleburgh, *in the Palatinate,* September the 29*th.* 1666.

SIR,

YOurs of the sixth current came on Wednesday *to me, and brought me the ill Tydings of* the Burning of London, *constantly expected. and discoursed of amongst the Jesuits to my knowledge for these fifteen years last past, as* to Happen this Year. *In which they do also promise to themselves and others* the Introduction of the publick Exercise of the Catholick Religion. *This Letter was sent to Mr.* Alton, *who lives in* New Gravel-lane *in* Shadwell, *who Negotiates the business of the Palatinate, and will produce the Original, if there be occasion.*

The Information of John Chisshull *Schoolmaster in* ENFIELD.

UPon *Friday, August* the 31*st.* Mrs. *St. George*, and her eldest Daughter *Susanna St, George*, both *Popish Recusants*, came to visit

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viſit Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* Widdow, at her houſe in *Enfield*; where ſpeaking concerning the Seſſion of Parliament drawing nigh, Mrs. *St. George* told her, That ſome would hereafter be called to account for a Plot. Being asked for what? She told her in her Ear, *For Burning the City*. Mrs. *Eves* afterwards hearing of the Firing of *London*, (and going to a place where ſhe might behold it) met with Mrs. *Suſanna St. George*, and (amongſt other diſcourſe) told her how much her Mothers Words, which ſhe ſpake the *Fryday* before, did run in her thoughts; which ſhe repeated to her Daughter, who made this Reply, That her Mother was very apt to talk, and that ſhe had been fain to keep her Mother within doors during the Fire, fearing leſt ſhe ſhould talk.

After this, (during the Fire) Mrs. *Eves* met with Mrs. *Cook*, another Popiſh Recuſant, and of the ſame Family, to whom ſhe alſo related Mrs. *St. George* her Words; who made this return, That ſhe was a *worthy Woman to keep Counſel*!

Alſo the Lady *St. George* at *Enfield* in the Lord of *Lincolns* Houſe, declared to Mrs. *Rebecca Eves* of the ſaid Town, That within a few days the City of *London ſhould be laid in Aſhes*. This was ſpoken about two days before the Fire happened.

Mrs. Eves *of* Enfield, *her Examination before Mr.* Jolliff *and Mr.* Marvel, Decemb. *the* 20*th.* 1666. *concerning Mrs.* St. George.

MRs. *Rebecca Eves* of *Enfield*, three or four dayes, or within a Week before the Fire, receiving a viſit in her own houſe from Mrs. *St. George* (amongſt other diſcourſes) Mrs. *St. George* askt her what News ſhe heard, and asked her if ſhe knew when the Parliament ſate? Mrs. *Eves* replied, ſhe thought ſhortly. The other asked, if ſhe heard of any that were to be called in queſtion before the Parliament; Mrs. *Eves* ſaid, about what? Mrs. *St. George* ſaid, about a Plot. Mrs. *Eves* asked, what Plot? Mrs. *St. George* anſwered, About Firing the City. Mrs. *Eves* ſaid, I hope God will preſerve the City, but People uſe not to be queſtioned before the Fact be committed. So the diſcourſe was waved for that time.

At the time of the Fire, Mrs. *Eves* went out to look towards the Fire,

Fire, and mentioning Mrs. *St. George*, one in the Company replyed behind her, (but she cannot certainly fix the Person) *A prime Woman to keep counsel!* After the Fire, Mrs. *St. George* her Daughter came to Mrs. *Eves*, who asked her if she remembred what her Mother had said? She said, *My Mother is such a Woman she will speak what she thinks*: Afterwards she said, That she had much ado to keep her Mother in, at the time of the Fire, lest she should speak some things that she should be questioned for.

At the first discourse, Mrs. *Eves* her Daughter, and others of her Family were present. Mr. *St. George*, his Wife and Family, have since left *Enfield*. They are all great Papists, and there are many more in the Neighbourhood.

A Letter directed and sent by the Post to Mr. *Samuel Thurlton*, in *Leicestershire*, from a person unknown, as followeth, Dated *October* 1666.

My Friend,

YOur presence is now more necessary at London, *than where you are, that you may determine how to dispose of your estate, in* Southwark; *For its determined by* Humane Council (if not frustrated by Divine Power) *that* the Suburbs wil shortly be destroyed. *Your capacity is large enough to understand, Proceed, as your Genius shall instruct you.*

Cave, Cave, Fuge, Vale.

SAturday the first of *September* 1666. the day before the Fire in *London*, came one *Urmstraw* from *Ireland* with a Letter from thence, to one Esquire *Holcroft* at *East-Ham* in *Essex* (being related to that Family by Marriage) where he supped. After which he asked the Esq; if he had heard any thing of the Firing of *London*, who answered No, , But *Urmstraw* said he would shortly, *For it was, or would be so that Night*: The Esquire answered, if it were, he hoped it might be quenched again, as it had been many a time: But *Urmstraw* answered No, *It would not be quenched; For it should be*

said

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ſaid of it as of Troy, repeating a Latine Verſe, *Nunc Seges eſt ubi* Troja *fuit*, That *Now Corn grows where* Troy *ſtood*. This diſcourſe was managed pleaſantly by him, after which, they went to their beds. And in the morning this *Urmſtraw* inquires earneſtly, whether they had heard of the Firing of *London* that Night, they anſwered, No: But he prayed them to ſend one of the Family out to inquire, and doubtleſs they would hear of it; Upon which a Meſſenger was ſent, who brought in Word from a man that travelled upon the Road, that it was on Fire indeed. After Dinner this *Urmſtraw* deſires his horſe to be ſadled, that he might be gone. The Eſquire intreats him to ſtay till next morning, But he anſwered, *if I ſhould ſtay, I ſhall ſleep no more this night than I did the laſt; Therefore I would go ſee* London *before its quite Burned, For I ſhall never ſee it more.*

Sunday Morning the Fire being begun in *London*, a perſon coming from *Depford*, when he came to *Barnaby-ſtreet* end in *Southwark*, hears a Woman cry out againſt a *Frenchman* for throwing Fireballs, he runs after him, and lays hold of him. He asked him what Commiſſion he had for ſo doing? He anſwered, that his Commiſſion was in his Cheſt: The People coming in, they ſearch'd him, and found Fireballs in his Pockets. He was delivered to the Guard in *Southwark*, but heard of no more.

A Citizen being Fired out of his Houſe, had hyred a Lodging in *Queens ſtreet* in *Covent-Garden*; and going up *Holborn* (there being a Crowd of people) ſteps in amongſt them, and hears a Woman ſay, that ſhe had a hand in Firing the City. The people askt her, whether ſhe were an Anabaptiſt? She ſaid No: Are you an Independent? She ſaid No: Are you a Presbyterian? She ſaid No: Are you a *Roman Catholick*? to which ſhe would give no anſwer. The Citizen asked her, but Mrs. had you a hand in Burning the City? She anſwered, what will you have me to ſay? *I have Confeſſed it already; and do deſerve to Dye for it*: This ſhe ſaid with great Trembling, and ſeemed to be much troubled. The Citizen inquires for a Conſtable, the people reply, There was one gone for, But a Gallant comes, and takes her by the Arm, and leads her away, ſaying, he would have her examined, and forthwith another Gallant cloſeth with him, and they both carryed her to the *Griffin* Tavern in *Holborn*. The

Citizen follows them, to see the result of the business, But they, with the Master of the House, shut out the Company (all but the Citizen, supposing him to be one of their own Company) but asking one the other concerning him, and finding him not of them, put him out again. Whereupon he goes to the next Company of Souldiers, and inquires for their Captain, who replyed, he was not there, but told him, Yonder is my Lord *Craven*, unto whom the Citizen repaired, and acquainted his Lordship, That there was a Woman apprehended (and rescued by a couple of Gallants) that had Confessed she had a hand in Burning of the City, and was at such a Tavern. Whereupon the Lord *Craven* called to a Captain in the street, and ordered him to goe with that Man and apprehend the Woman that he should direct him to; Whereupon he goes with the Citizen, and takes her with the first Gallant, who stood up highly in her defence, and carries them both to an Alehouse on the other side of the way. The Citizen perceiving that nothing would be done with her, leaves his name with the Captain, and where he might be found, but was never called for, to Justifie the words spoken by her.

A Woman standing in *White-Chappel* with a Company about her, was askt what the matter was. She said, That she met two young men in that place, and asked them how it was with the Fire: They answered, *Its now almost out, if it can be kept so, but the Rogues renew it with their Fireballs.* Ay faith another Woman, Young men, if you have a heart to it, you may be hyred to throw *Fire balls* too; For I know where twenty were hired yesterday to throw them. It was askt her, What was become of the Woman that spake thus? She answered, That she had apprehended her and delivered her to the under-Beadle of *White-Chappel*-Parish. The Woman falling under the accusation (not being able to deny it) there being many Witnesses at that time that heard it: She was delivered to Sir *John Robinson*, but heard of no more.

One from *France* writes to his Correspondent in *London*, to know the truth of what was muttered in *Paris*, Whether *London* were laid in Ashes or no. The Letter being dated a Week before the Fire began.

From *Surrey* in or near *Darkin*, a Person in ordinary habit (who was

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was yet observed to take place of all the Nobility and Gentry among the Papists, seeing the People of *Darkin* mourn for the Burning of the City, he spake slightingly of it, telling them, They should have something else to trouble themselves for, and that shortly *Darkin* should be laid as low as *London*. Whereupon the People made at him, and one Mr. *Howard* a great Papist rescues him, and sends him away in his Coach to *London*. This was deposed before Sir *Adam Brown*, a Justice of the Peace and a Member of Parliament.

These following Relations (for substance) were delivered to Sir *Robert Brooks*, Chairman of the Committee, a little before the Prorogation of the Parliament.

A True Relation made by one of the Grand Jury, at Hicks Hall, *at a general Quarter-Sessions, presently after the Fire in* London, *who was upon the Tryal of some of those that Fired the City.*

THat near *West-Smithfield* in *Cheek-Lane*, there was a man taken in the very Act of Firing a House, by the Inhabitants and Neighbours; and carrying him away through *Smithfield*, to have him before a Justice for the Fact committed: The Kings Life-Guard perceiving of it, made up unto them, and demanded their Prisoner from them, but they refused to let him go. The Life-Guard men told them, That he was one of the Kings Servants; and said, *We will have him*; and thereupon they drew out their Swords and Pistols, and rescued him out of the Peoples Hands by force of Arms.

A Bill of Indictment was brought against him, and two or three Witnesses did swear unto it, and the Bill was found by the Grand Jury, who did carry it to the *Old Bayley*, and presented it to the Lord Chief Justice; but it came to no further Tryal, nor was ever seen after at the *Old Bayley*, so far as this Person upon his best enquiry could ever hear or learn.

Concerning a House-Keeper at So-ho, *who fired his own Dwelling-House.*

FIrst he secured all his Goods in his Garden, and then went in and fired his House, which when he had done, he endeavoured to get away out at his Fore-Door. A Neighbour demanded of him who had fired his House? He answered, The Devil: Upon that, his Neighbour bid him stand, or he would run his Halbert into his Guts: His answer was, If you do, there are enough left behind me to do the work: Whereupon he was secured, and a Bill of Indictment brought against him, and about three Witnesses did *swear to it*, and his Son came in as a Witness against him. He was demanded by the Foreman, What he could say as to the firing of his Fathers House? He said that his Father did fire it with a Fire-Ball. It was demanded of him, Whether he did fire it above Stairs, or below? He answered, Above Stairs. The Bill was likewise found; but the petty Jury being too much influenced and over-awed by the L. C. J. *K.* did not find him guilty.

A Maid was taken in the Street with two Fire Balls in her Lap; Some did demand of her, Where she had them? She said, One of the Kings Life-Guard threw them into her Lap: She was asked Why she had not caused him to be apprehended? She said, That she knew not what they were. She was indicted for this, and the Bill found against her, and turned over to the *Old-Bayly*, but no prosecution upon it.

In the time of the Fire, a Constable took a Frenchman firing a House, seized on him, and going to a Magistrate with him, met His Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, who asked the reason of the tumult: One told him that a Frenchman was taken firing a House; his Highness called for the man, who spake to him in French: The Duke asked, Who would attest it? The Constable said, *I took him in the Act, and I will attest it.* The Duke took him into his custody, and said, *I will secure him.* But he was heard of no more.

On

On *Munday* the third of *September*, there was a Frenchman taken firing a Houſe; and upon ſearching of him, Fire-Balls were found about him. At which time four of the Life-Guard reſcued the Frenchman, and took him away from the People, *after their uſual manner in the whole time of the Fire.*

One Mr. *Belland* a Frenchman, living at *Maribone*, who bought great ſtore of Paſtboard for a conſiderable time before the Fire in the City of *London*, to the quantity of twenty groſs in one Shop, and much more elſewhere, was asked by a Citizen, What he did with all that Paſtboard? He anſwered, That he made *Fire-Works for the Kings pleaſure.* The Citizen asked him, What doth the King give you? He replyed, *Nothing, onely I have Reſpects at Court*: The Citizen ſaid, *Take heed, Mr.* Belland, *you do not expend your Eſtate, and then loſe your Reſpects at Court, for you are at a great charge. Belland* anſwered, *Sir, do you think this a great matter? I uſe all this my ſelf; But if you did ſee all the great quantities I have made elſewhere, in three ſeveral places, three, four, and five miles off, you would ſay ſomething.* Another time, the Stationer with whom he dealt for the Paſtboard, being at his Houſe in *Maribone*, and wondring at the many thouſands of Fire-Works that lay pi.ed up of ſeveral ſorts, he ſaid, *Sir, do you wonder at this? If you ſhould ſee the quantity that I have made elſewhere by other men, you would WONDER INDEED.*

The *Sunday* before the Fire began, this *Belland* came to the Shop where he was wont to buy his Pa.tboard, but the Stationer being not there, he deſired a Citizen (the Stationers Neighbour) to ſpeak to him, and to let him know that he had much wronged him in diſappointing him of the four groſs of Paſtboard which he ſhould have had of him, and ſaid that he ſhould not do his work by the time; and that if he had it not by *Tueſday* night, it would come too late, he ſhould have no occaſion for it after that (which was the *Tueſday* night before the Fire) Mr. *Belland* (ſaid the Citizen) what is the reaſon of your haſt? Have you any Shew ſuddenly before the King? At which he bluſht, and would give no anſwer. Says the Citizen, *What kind of Fireworks do you make, onely ſuch as will crack and run? Belland* anſwered, *I make of all ſorts; ſome that will burn and make no crack at all, but will fly up in a pure Body of Flame, higher than the top of* Pauls,

and

and Waver in the Ayre. Sayes the Citiſen, Mr. *Belland*, when you make your Shew, ſhall I ſee it? Yes, ſaid *Belland*, I promiſe you, and gave him his hand upon it. Which Citiſen, in the time of the Fire, being upon the *Thames* in a Boat, ſaw to his great amazement ſundry bodyes of Fire, burning above the Fire of the Houſes *as high again as Pauls, Wavering in the Ayre,* directly according to *Bellands* deſcription.

And after the Burning of the City, the Stationer and the other Citiſen agreed, to go to *Maribone*, to ſpeak with this *Belland*; and by the way met with his two Maids and his Boy: And having ſome knowledge of them, asked for young Mr. *Belland*, who told them, he was not at home, neither knew they where he was. But the Citiſens obſerving that they carryed with them Rabbets and Capons ready dreſt, concluded, they were going to him, and told them ſo. Wherat, they were Surly and bid them go look him, for they would not tell them where he was. Upon that, the Citiſens reſolved to follow them, and did, till they came to *Whitehall.* The Servants went up ſtairs and down ſtairs, on purpoſe to have loſt them, but could not, for they kept cloſe to them. And at laſt, one of the Maids went to a dore and knock'd, Crying out, *They were dogg'd by two men, that they could not be rid of*; With that young Mr. *Belland* opened the dore, ſaying to one of the Citiſens, *Sir your Servant, how do you do?* One of them anſwered, *Both I and many Thouſand Families more are the worſe for you, for you under pretence of making Fire-works for the King, have Deſtroyed a Famous City, and Ruined a Noble People.* To which *Belland* replyes, *I make nothing but Innocent Things, that will do no harm; for which, I have a Patent from the King.* But the Citiſen anſwered, *If the King gave you a Patent, it was but for your ſelf*: Who anſwered, *No.* Said the Citiſen, *What made you then to imploy ſo many men, in ſo many places?* No ſaid *Belland*, *I ſet no man to work, neither know I any man that makes of them, but my ſelf*; though he had often before ſaid otherwiſe. While they were thus diſcourſing, Old *Belland* looks from under the Hanging, Sir ſaid he, *I hear you charge my Son, with Suſpicion of Burning the City, I pray you ſpeak lower* (caſting his eyes about, fearing the Ladies paſſing by, might hear,) and ſaid, *My Son doth nothing but what he hath a Patent from the King for, and ſhall have an Order, to Sue any man, that ſhall accuſe him.* And he ſaid, *My Son, is no Priſoner, but Lodged*

here;

here, to prevent him from the Rage of the Common People. Well, said the Citizens, *You must give an Accompt for what you have done.* And so they shut the dore upon them. The Citizens went and inquired whose Lodgings they were, and were told, they belonged to the Lady *Killegrew.*

The Information of *Thomas Middleton* Chyrurgion, late Inhabitant of St. *Brides, London.*

I *The said* Thomas Middleton *do hereby certifie, that upon the* Sunday *in the Afternoon (the day wherein the dreadful fire brake out in* Pudding-Lane *which consumed the City) hearing the general outcry, that the City was fired by Papists and* French, *I repaired to the top of a Church Steeple near the* Three Cranes *in the* Vintrey, *where my self and several others observed the motion of the Fire for two or three hours together, and we all took notice, that the Fire did break forth out of several houses, when the houses which were then burning were at a good distance from them every way, and more particularly I saw the Fire break out from the inside of St.* Lawrence Pountney *Steeple when there was no fire near it. These and such like observations begat in me a perswasion, that the Fire was maintained by design. Upon* Munday *I repaired again into the City, and found as the day before that the Fire did break forth in fresh houses at a great distance one from another. And as I was returning home, passing through* Watling-street *by a Tobaccoe Merchants house, I saw the Master of the house come down stairs, driving a young fellow before him, saying to him,* you Rogue, do you come to Rob me, what did you do in my Garret? *or words to that purpose, and pushed him out of doors: All which I observed, and he seemed to be a Frenchman, he was a short black fellow of about 22 years of Age: and as soon as he was out of the house, he having a loose Coat on in a way of privacy, Shuffles something under his Coat, whereupon I laid hold of him, & said,* Sirrah, what have you there? *The fellow replyed,* What is that to you, the Master of the House knows me: *Upon that I asked the Mr. of the house, whether he knew the fellow, he answered,* he knew him not. *Whereupon I searched the fellow, and found a horn of powder about him, and as soon as the powder was discovered, he fell a rubbing his hands, they being all black with powder: He had also about him, a book Intituled*

tuled The Jewish Government. *I charged him that he was a French-man, because he spoke broken English; but he denyed it, and did much Vaunt himself. There coming a Constable by with his Staffe, I Required him to Carry him to Prison, and I would assist him; So we conveyed him to* Old Bridewell, *and by the way, the people were ready to kill him, calling him* French Rascall. *I prayed them to forbear, for Justice would give him his reward. I told the fellow he would be hanged; but he made slight of it, saying,* If I dye my Soul shall be Saved, but yours shall be Damned. *And when he was put into* Bridewell, *I desired that he might be secured, and none suffered to speak with him, till he were Examined before a Magistrate, because the Tobacco-Merchants House was presently Burned upon it. But so it happened on the next day, that the Fire came on, and Consumed my House and Goods, so that I was forced with my Family to fly into the Countrey, and what became of the Fellow I know not,* Old Bridewell *being burnt also. And understanding that the Parliament hath appointed a Committee to enquire after the Actors in, and Fomenters of that Terrible Fire, I thought good to inform the Honourable Committee thereof, That they might send for the Keeper of the said* Bridewell, *to know what became of the Fellow, that he might receive Justice according to his demerit. Thus much I thought my self obliged to do, as in Duty bound to God and my Country. All which I am ready to affirm upon Oath, when I shall be thereunto called.*

Tho. Middleton.

IN the time of the Fire, near *Bridewell*, There was a man sadly bemoaning the great Loss he was like to sustain, (the Fire then being within five or six houses of him) did beseech the people for God sake, they having no goods of their own in danger to come in and help him to throw out Trunks, Chests, Beds, &c. out at Window, having procured two Carts or Waggons to carry them away. Whereupon I ran into his House with several others, broke down his Windows, Threw out his Goods, and Loaded the Carts, and there being some Interval of time before the return of the Carts, and seeing a Room wherein were many books and loose papers (which seemed to be a Library) I went in, and took down a book, which proved to be *Ovids Metamorphosis*, and while I was looking upon it, there

there came into the ſame Room an Old Man of Low Stature with a white Frock, who looked alſo on the book as it was in my hand, I took him in my mind to be ſome Groom, come out of a Stable, and thought him to be preſumptuouſly fooliſh, ſuppoſing ſuch a mean like old man ignorant of that Language, in which the book was written, it being Latine; but I ſpoke not to him: In the mean time, there break forth a Fire amongſt the Papers which were behind us, there being none in the Room but he and I. Whereupon the reſt of the people coming in, Cryed out, we had ſet the Room on Fire, and Ruſhing in upon us, put out the Fire with their feet; whereupon I took hold of the Old Man by the buttons under the Throat, and ſaid, how now Father, it muſt either be you or I that muſt fire theſe Papers. There was a ſmall thing of a Black matter which looked like a piece of a Link, burning, which queſtionleſs ſet fire on the Papers, but it was immediately trode out. A Tumult of People thronged in; and when I ſaid how now Father, and took hold of him, he ſaid, *Parce mihi Domine*: The People which did not underſtand it, Cryed out, he is a French-man kill him, and with pulling of him, his Perriwigge fell off; Then appeared a bald Scull, and under his Frock he had black Cloathes, I think of Biſhops Sattin, whereupon he ſeemed to be a Grave Æccleſiaſtick Perſon. I had much ado to ſave him from the people, but at laſt brought him before the Duke of York: we found in his Pocket a bundle of papers cloſed up with Wax like a Packet, which was delivered to the Duke of York. I know not what was written in them, neither do I know what Countrey-man he was; but me thoughts he looked ſomething Jeſuitical like. This I am certain of, that when I went into the Room there was no fire in it, and it was fired when there was none but he and I in it, yet I cannot ſay I ſaw him do it, though I cannot but ſuſpect he did it, and the rather, becauſe there were ſeveral houſes untouched betwixt this houſe, and where the fire was coming on, when the Papers in the Library were thus on fire as I have related. What became of this Fellow after we had delivered him to his Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, I have not heard.

John Stewartt.

Thus farr concerning the Report and Informations about the Fire: Now follows a true account of what was represented to another Committee of Parliament touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery, &c.

At the Committee appointed to certifie Informations touching the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the INCREASE *of* POPERY.

Ordered,

That these several Informations proceeded on, in pursuance of the said Power of the Committee, be Reported to the House, in referen. e to the Insolency of Popish Priests and Jesuites, and the increase of Popery.

AS to the Increase of Popery, Mr. *Harcock* Minister of *Chilmoth* in *Wilts*, Informs, That meeting with one Mr. *Thompson*, about a Month since, coming from *Mass* out of *Somerset-House* Chappel, and discoursing to him of his Religion, asked him if there were many lately turned to it? *Thompson* answered, *Thousands*. And being demanded, what incouragement there was to it, Replyed, There would be a *Change suddenly*.

Report his Carriage at the Committee.

Mr. *Thompson* being summoned before the Committee, did behave himself very insolently: They have commanded me to report it. Being asked, Whether he had not a Shop in *Somerset-House*, where *Popish Books* and *Popish Knacks* were sold? He said, He had; and that his Man sold such Books and *Beads*, and other things. And said, There was one Crucifix, no Reliques, but wished he had some good ones. He said that he was a *Roman Catholick*, and thanks God for it. He said he was no Priest, but wished he were in a capacity

capacity to be one. He ſaid he had not taken the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, nor would do it. He ſaid that he would take any Oath that any Chriſtian Prince ſhould require, but not the Oath of Allegiance, intimating ſome mixture in it. He ſaid he had taken the Oath of Allegiance to the King of *Spain*, and was a Subject to the King of *Spain*.

One Mr. *Aſh* a Miniſter, late of *Capell* in *Surrey*, Informed, that being at *Canfield* in *Lancaſhire* this laſt Summer, he ſaw great Reſort on *Sundays* to *Canfield* houſe, the houſe of a Papiſt; and asking ſome that were going thither, what the occaſion was of their Reſort thither, they told him, that they were going to Maſs, and that one Mr. *Robinſon* a Prieſt did ſay Maſs.

Mr. *Aſh* did likewiſe Inform, That he thought the Number of thoſe that went to Maſs, to that houſe on *Sundays*, was as great as the *Proteſtants* that went to the Pariſh Church.

One Mr. *Welden* Deputy Ordinary for *Middleſex* did Inform, That in his accuſtomed attendance on the Priſoners at *Newgate*, about the times of Execution, *Romiſh Prieſts*, and particularly one Mr. *Harvy* a Jeſuite, hath conſtantly uſed to reſort to the Priſon at thoſe times; and doth perſwade the Priſoners to become Papiſts; and that divers have been altered in their Religion by them, and turned to *Popery*.

Mr. *Wotton* informeth, That on the 16*th*. of *October*, he went to *Newgate*, and meeting with one *Howard* an under-Keeper at the door, deſired to ſpeak with Mr. *Hubert* the Frenchman, who was then condemned. *Howard* told him that he could not ſpeak with him yet, for Mr. *Harvy* the Queen-Mothers Confeſſor was in private with him, and ſaid, this *Harvy* uſed frequently to come to the Priſon after Condemnation, and that where one Priſoner dyed a Proteſtant, many dyed Papiſts. Mr. *Wotton* ſaid, that after ſome ſtay, he ſaw Mr. *Harvy* come out from Mr. *Hubert*, and then he was admitted to have ſpeech with him.

Mr. *Gawdry* Keeper of *Newgate* did inform, That Mr. *Harvy* the Jeſuite did frequent the Priſon at *Newgate* about the times of Execution, upon the pretence of the Queens Charity, and did ſpend much time with the Priſoners in private, and particularly, did ſo before the laſt execution, night after night. Mr. *Gawdry* ſaid likewiſe of the nine that ſuffered, eight dyed Papiſts, where-

of some he knew were Protestants when they came into the Prison.

It appeared upon several Informations, that Mr. *Harvy* and other Priests, did not only resort to *Newgate* at times of Execution, but likewise to the *White Lyon* in *Southwark*, and other places in the Country, and used their endeavours to pervert Dying Prisoners.

Thomas Barnet late a Papist, Informed, That when he was a Papist, and resorted to Gentlemens Houses in *Berkeshire* that were Papists, there was *almost in every Gentlemans house a Priest*, and instanced in divers private Gentlemen in that County. Others did inform the like in *Surrey*.

Mr. *Cotman* did Inform, That one Mr. *Carpenter*, late a Preacher at *Colledge-Hill*, did in discourse tell *Cotman*, *That the Judgements of God upon this Kingdom, by the Plague last year, and lately by the Fire in* London, *were come upon this Land & People for their forsaking the true Roman Catholique Religion, and casting off obedience to the Pope. And that if they would return to the Church of Rome, the Pope would re-build this City at his own charge.* Carpenter said likewise to the said *Cotman*, *That if he would come and hear him preach the next Sunday at his house in* Queen-street, *he would give twenty Reasons to prove, that the Roman Catholique was the true Religion, and his false; and that our Bible had a thousand falsities in it, And that there was no true Scripture but at* Rome *and their Church.*

Carpenter at the Committee confessed, That he had formerly taken Orders from the Church of *Rome*, to be a Priest, but said he had Renounced that Church, and taken Orders in *England*.

The next thing is the Information of their Insolency; and I shall begin with their *Scorning* and *Despising* the *Bible*.

One *Thomas Williams* an Officer in Sir *William Bowyers* Regiment Informed, That one *Ashley* a Papist, seeing a Woman reading in a Bible, asked her why she read in that *Damnable Presbyterian Bible*, and said, *a Play-book was as good.*

Thomas Barnet of *Bynfield* in *Berkeshire* Informed, That being at one Mr. *Youngs* house in *Bynfield* at *Bartholomew-tide* last, Mr. *Young* said to the Brother of this *Thomas*, in his hearing, *That within*

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within two years there should not be a Protestant in England. Thomas Barnet informed further, That being at Mr. Doncasters house in Bynfield, One Mr. Thural, Son-in-law to Mr. Doncaster (and both Papists) said to this Informer (who was then likewise a Papist) "The People take me for a poor fellow, But I shall find a "thousand or two thousand pounds, to raise a party of Horse to "make Mr. Hathorns and Mr. Bulcocks fat Guts lye on the Ground. "For it is no more to kill an Heretique, than to kill a Grashop-"per: And that it was happy for him, that he was a Catholique. "For by that means, He shall be one that shall be mounted.

Mr. Linwood a Scrivener in White-Chappel Informed, That about the 20th. of October last, meeting with one Mr. Binks a Papist, and discoursing with him, Binks told him, That there was amongst the Papists as great a Design as ever was in England; and he thought it would be executed speedily. Being asked how many Papists there might be about London, he answered, about seven thousand; and in England, a hundred thousand were Armed.

Mr. Oakes a Physician dwelling in Shadwell, Informed; That a little after the Burning of London, one Mr. Carpenter a Minister, came to his house on Tower-Wharf, and spake to him to this purpose. "I will not say that I am a P-pist; But this I will say, that "I had rather dye the death of a Papist, and that my Soul should "be raised with their Resurrection, Than either be Presbyterian, "Independent or Anabaptist. And I tell you, the Papists have "hitherto been his Majesties best Fortification. For when Pres-"byterian, Independent, and Anabaptist opposed him, Then they "stood by him and helped him. And He is now resolved to com-"mit himself into their hands. And take it upon my word, in a "short time, the Papist will lay you as low as that house; point-"ing to a house that was demolish'd; For they are able to raise "Forty thousand men. And I believe the next work will be cut-"ting of Throats. This was sworn by Mr. Oakes before Sir John Fredericke a Member of the House.

Miriam Pilkington being present when the words were spoken doth affirm them all, save only those, That the King is resolved to commit himself into the Papists hands. Those, she doth not remember.

Henry Young a Distiller of hot-waters, Informed, That about

April

April 1661. being in the Jesuites Colledge in *Anwerp*, one *Powel*, an English Jesuite, perswaded him to turn *Roman Catholique*; and said, If he intended to save his Life and Estate, he had best turn so, for within seven years he should see all *England* of that Religion. *Young* replyed, *That the City of* London *would never endure it*. *Powel* answered, *That within five or six years they would break the power and strength of* London *in pieces*; and that they had been contriving it these *twenty years*; and that if *Young did live, he should see it done*. The said *Young* did likewise inform, That shortly after his coming into *England*, one *Thompson* and *Copervel*, both Papists, did several times say to him, That *within five or six years at the furthest, The Roman Catholick Religion should be all over this Kingdom*.

Jasper Goodwin of *Darkin* in the County of *Surrey*, informed, That about a month since, One *Edward Complyn*, a Papist, said to him, *You must all be Papists shortly; and that now he was not ashamed to own himself a Roman Catholique, and to own his Priests; naming two that lived in* Darkin, *in the Houses of two Papists*. And likewise said, *That in twenty four hours Warning, the Roman Catholiques could raise Thirty Thousand Men, as well armed as any Men in Christendom*.

William Warner of *Darkin*, informed, That the said *Edward Complyn* did tell him, That the *Roman Catholiques in England could in twenty four hours raise Thirty Thousand Horse and Arms*: And upon saying so, pull'd out his *Crucifix and Beads*; and said, *He was not ashamed of his Religion*.

John Granger of *Darkin*, informed, That about a year since, being in his House reading the Bible, one *Thomas Collins*, a Papist, said to him, *Are you still a Church-goer? Had you not better turn Roman Catholique? If you stay till you are forced, none will abide you*. He said further, That there was a Man beyond-Sea had prophesied, *That in Sixty Six, if the King did not settle the Romish Religion in* England, *he would be banished out of the Kingdom, and all his Posterity*. And *Collins* further said, *That he being lately turned a Roman Catholique, would not be a Protestant again for all the World*. He wished *Granger* again, in the hearing of his Wife, (which she affirmed to the Committee) *To turn to his Religion; For all the said Prophecy would come to pass in Sixty Six*.

Robert

(1235

Robert Holloway of *Darkin* aforesaid, informed that one *Stephen Griffin* a Papist said to him, *That all the Blood that had been shed in the late Civil Wars, was nothing to that which would be shed this Year in England.* *Holloway* demanding a reason for these words (in regard the Kingdome was in Peace, and no likelyhood of Trouble) and said, *Do you Papists mean to Rise and Cut our Throats when we are a Sleep?* *Griffin* answered, *That's no matter, If you Live, you shall See it.*

Ferdinando De Masside, a *Portugal*, and some few years since a *Roman Priest*, but turning *Protestant*, Informed, That One Father *Toffe* a *Jesuit*, did the last year tell him at *Paris*, *That if all* England *did not Return to the Church of* Rome, *They should all be Destroyed the next Year.*

Mr. *Samuel Cotman* of the *Middle-Temple* Barrister, informed, That about two years since, one Mr. *Jeviston* a *Popish Priest*, and called by the name of Father *Garret*, did perswade him to turn *Papist*, and he should want neither profit nor preferment. Mr. *Cotman* objected, That he intended to practice the Law, which he could not do, if he turned *Papist*, because he must take the *Oath of Supremacy* at his being called to the *Barr*: And if he were a *Papist*, he must not take it. Mr. *Jeviston* replyed, Why not take the *Oath*? It is an unlawfull *Oath* and voyd, *ipso facto*, And after some pause, said further, First take the *Oath*, and then I will *Convert you*. He said further, The King will not own himself to be *Head of the Church*. And said further, You of *England* that set up the *Dutch* to destroy our Religion, shall find that they shall be made use of to pull down Yours, and consequently their Own at last.

Man Stanker an Officer to the Duke of *Ormand* in *Ireland* informed, That coming out of *Ireland* with one *Oriell* (who owned himself of the Order of the Jesuites, and Commissioned from the Pope to be Lord Primate of *Ireland*, and Arch-Bishop of *Armaugh*) and falling into some discourse with him, he told him that there had been a difference betwixt him and some other of the Jesuits in *Ireland*, and that part of the occasion was, That one *Father Welch*, and some other

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1236) of the Jesuits there, did dispence with the Papists in *Ireland*, to take the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy, by virtue of a *Standing Commission* from the Pope which they had to do it, *During this Kings life*, and *Orsell* thought they ought not to do it by virtue of the *Standing Commission*; But should take a *New Commission* from the *Pope every Year to do it*. And likewise that he brought eight Boyes out of *Ireland*, whom he intended to carry for *Flanders*, to breed up in some of the Colledges there. And at his taking Shipping to go for *Flanders*, *He Shaked his Foot* towards *England*, terming it *Ægipt*, and said, *He would not Return to* England, *till he came with Fifty Thousand men at his heels*.

A French Merchant, being a Papist, living in St. *Michaels-Lane London*, writes in a Letter to his Friend, that a great Number of Men and Arms were ready here, if those he wrote to were ready there. He being upon the intercepting this Letter Searched, Forty Firelocks were found in his house, ready Loaden; which were carryed to Fishmongers Hall, a month or more before the Fire, and he Committed to Prison, but since Released.

A poor woman retaining to one *Belsons* house a Papist, about *Darkin* in *Surrey*, was Sollicited, that she and her husband, would turn *Roman Catholiques*; which if they did voluntarily *Now*, they would be accepted of; But if they staid a little longer, They would be forced, whether they would or no; and then they would not be esteemed. This was deposed before Sir *Adam Brown*, a Member of Parliament.

A Complaint being made against a *Snger Baker* at *Fox-Hall*, his house was Searched by *Lieutenant Colonell Luntly*, who found there several Guns with such Locks, as no English-man who was (at the taking of them) could discharge; together with brass Blunder-Busses and Fire-works, of a very furious and burning Nature. Tryal being made of a small part of them, the Materials were discerned, to be Sulphur, Aquavitæ, Gunpowder, whatever else.

In a Letter to Sir *John Frederick*, and Mr *Nathaniel Heron*, from *Horsham* in *Sussex*, the 8th. of *September* 1666. Subscribed *Henry Chowne*.

Chowne. Wherein is mentioned, that the ſaid *Henry Chowne* had thoughts to come to *London* that Week, but that they were in Diſtraction there, concerning the Papiſts, fearing, they would ſhew themſelves all, that day: And that he had been to ſearch a Papiſts houſe within 6. miles of that place. He with another Juſtice of Peace met with the Gentlemans Brother (who is a Prieſt) going to *London*, whom they ſearched, and found a Letter about him which he had received that morning from his Siſter twenty miles off from him, Wherein is expreſſed, *That a great Buſineſs is in hand, not to be Committed to Paper, as the Times be.*

Your Committee have thought fit to give no Opinion upon theſe Informations; But leave the matter of Fact to your Judgements.

I am Commanded to tell you, That your Committee have ſeveral other things of this Nature under their Inquiry.

AS a further Inſtance of the Audacious and Inſolent behaviour of theſe Popiſh Recuſants, take the following Copy of Verſes Made, and then Scattered abroad by ſome of their Party in *Weſtminſter Hall*, and ſeveral other places about the City, and elſewhere in the Kingdome.

COvere la feu, yee Hugonots,
That have ſo branded us with Plots,
And henceforth no more Bonfires make,
Till ye arrive the Stygean Lake.
For down ye muſt yee Hereticks,
For all your hopes of Sixty Six.
The hand againſt you is ſo ſteady,
Your Babylon, *is fall'n already.*
And if you will avoyd that happ;
Return into your Mothers Lapp;

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The Devil a Mercy is for those,
Then Holy Mother Church oppose.
Let not your Clergy you betray;
Great eyes are op'e, and see the way.
Return in time, if you will save
Your Souls, your Lives, or ought you have.
And if you Live till Sixty Seaven,
Confess you had fair Warning given.
Then see in time, or e're be blind,
Short time will shew you what's behind.

Dated the 5th. day of *November* in the year 1666. and the first year of the Restoration of the Church of *Rome* in *England*.

NOt long after the Burning of *London*, Mr. *Brook Bridges* a young Gentleman of the *Temple*, as he was going to attend Divine Service in the Temple Church, in a Pew there found this following Paper, which immediately either by himself, or a Relation of his, was delivered to Sir *William Morrice* one of his Majesties Principal Secretaries of State; the Contents of the Paper are as follows.

A Warning to Protestants.

I, Who have been a Papist, from my Infancy, till of Late, and in Zeal for their horrid Principles, had too great a share in the Firing of the City. And did intend to do further mischief to the Protestants (of which I am now and ever shall be a Member) do upon abhorrency of that Villany, and Religion that hath moved me to it, declare to all Protestants, the Approach of their Suddain Ruine, that it may be prevented, If it be not too Late.

When I, together with other Papists, both *French*, *Irish*, and *English*, Fired the City; Others were Imployed to Massacre the Protestants, we thinking thereby to destroy the Heads of your Religion; But the Massacre was disappointed by the Fear of him, who was the Chief Agent in this Villany. And the Fire not having done

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all its Work, They have often endeavoured to Fire the remaining Part. They intend likewise to Land the French upon you: To whose Assistance they all intend to come, and for that Purpose are stored with Arms: And have so farre deceived the King, that they have the Command of the most part of the Army, and the Sea Ports. The French intend to Land at *Dover*, that Garrison being most Papists: And the Papists in *England*, have expres command from *Rome*, to hasten their business before the next Parliament; And to dispatch. Therefore as you love your Lives and Fortune, prevent your Ruine by Removing all the Papists in *England*, especially Collonel *Legg* from the *Tower*: And the Lord *Dowglass*, and all his Adherents, and Souldiers, from *Dover*, and by Disarming all Papists. I have such an abhorrency that I would willingly undergoe any Punishment for it, and declare my self openly; were I not assured that I could do you more good in concealing my name for the Present. Delay not from following these Directions as you love your Lives; And be not deceived by any Pretences whatsoever.

FINIS.